



The correct stems of family-group names citing *Ortalis* Merrem, 1786, as type genus (Aves: Cracidae)

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Donegan (2012) proposed the family-group name "Ortalidaini n. tribe" for the chachalaca group in the avian family Cracidae (guans), and designated "*Ortalis* (or *Ortalida*)" [sic] Merrem, 1786, as the type genus. For reasons given below, the name "Ortalidaini" is shown to be misformed according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), hereinafter the Code, and the correct stems of family-group names using *Ortalis* Merrem, 1786, as type genus are presented.

Merrem (1786: 40) proposed the genus-group name *Ortalida* in a description written in Latin. Wharton (1879: 450) indicated that *Ortalida* is an accusative singular that is required by the Latin transitive verb "*appello*" [I name]. Merrem's name is available but must be written in the nominative singular (Articles 11.8.1 and 32.5.2.7 of the Code), which is *Ortalis*, from the Greek ορταλῖς [fowl], with ορταλίδος as genitive singular, the stem of which is ortalid- (Article 29.3.1). Indeed, classical Latin grammars mention that Latin imported many Greek words while conserving their Greek case endings; one example is *tigris* [tiger], with *tigridos* as genitive, and *tigrida* as accusative (Greenough *et al.*, 1903: 35; Lefranc, 1846: 19). A full description of Merrem's rare work was given by Coues (1896).

Merrem's original *Ortalida* can be mentioned for citation purposes, but has no nomenclatural status or use; because it was corrected to *Ortalis* under Articles 11.8.1 and 32.5.2.7 of the Code, it is an incorrect original spelling and as such "has no separate availability" (Article 32.4). In fact, after publication of Wharton's paper, most if not all subsequent authors, including Coues (1882: 93), AOU (1886: 178; 1998: 112), and Peters (1934: 16), accepted Wharton's conclusion, which has since stood unchallenged.

For reasons given in his work, Donegan (2012) intended to establish a family-group name for the New World chachalacas, and stated (p. 43) that he was treating "*Ortalis* as the valid generic name for these birds" and that the "stem for this name would ordinarily be *Ortalid-*" (p. 42). He also wanted to avoid homonymy, real or presumed, with family-group names formed from *Ortalis* Fallen, 1810, including Ortalidae Swainson, 1840, and Ortalididae Harris, 1841 [Diptera]. Because Fallen's *Ortalis* is a junior homonym of *Ortalis*, Merrem, 1786, family-group names formed from the former are invalid under Article 39 of the Code (Sabrosky, 1999: 226, 279; Kameneva & Korneyev, 2006: 498).

The tribe names "Ortalidini" (stem: ortalid-, under 29.3.1) and "Ortalini" (stem: ortal-, under Article 29.3.1.1) are available for the New World chachalacas; admittedly, however, either may not be a first option in view of risk of confusion with names proposed for Diptera, and with Ortaliinae Mulsant, 1850 [Coleoptera]. Accordingly, Donegan (2012: 43) suggested that "*Ortalida* could alternatively be a nominative first declension singular Latin noun", and proposed the tribe name "Ortalidaini". The stem ortalida- of the tribe name is not the putative nominative singular suggested by Donegan (2012); it is nothing else but Merrem's generic name, the nomenclatural spelling of which is *Ortalis* (Articles 11.8.1 and 32.4; Wharton 1879). This is exactly what Donegan (2012) intended: use of an entire generic name (Ortalis-) as the stem of the family-group name (Articles 29.1; Recommendation 29A and Example under Article 29.6) in order to avoid homonymy with names proposed for Diptera and Coleoptera.

Under the circumstances, the misformed tribe name "Ortalidaini" is to be corrected to Ortalisini Donegan, 2012 (Articles 32.5.3.2 and 35.4.1) with authorship, date and place of publication unchanged (Articles 32.2.2 and 33.2.2).

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